

United States resumes its annual legislative duties. An all-wise and merciful

I deem it a subject of profound regret that Congress has thus far failed to admit to seats loyal Senators and Representatives from the other States, whose inhabitants, with those of Tennessee, had engaged in the rebellion. Ten States—more than one-fourth of the whole number—remain without representation; the seats of fifty members of the House of Representatives and of twenty-two of the Senate are yet vacant—not by their own consent, but by a failure of election but by the refusal of Congress to accept their credentials. That admission, it is believed, would have accomplished much towards the renewal and strengthening of our relations as one people, and removed serious cause for discontent on the part of the inhabitants of those States. It would have accorded with the great principle enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that no people ought to bear the burden of taxation, and yet be denied the right of representation. It would have been in consonance with the express provisions of the Constitution, that "each State shall have at least one Representative," and "that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate." These provisions were intended to secure to every State, and to the people of every State, the right of representation in each House of Congress; and so important was it deemed by the framers of the Constitution that the equality of the States in the Senate should be preserved, that not even by an amendment of the Constitution can any State, without its consent, be denied a voice in that branch in the National Legislature. It is true, it has been assumed that the existence of the States was terminated by the rebellions acts of their inhabitants,

consideration of Congress "such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient." I know of no measure more imperatively demanded by the necessities of our internal commerce, sound policy, and equal justice, than the admission of loyal numbers from the now unrepresented States, and the restoration of the rights of restoration, and exert a most salutary influence in the re-establishment of peace, harmony, and fraternal fellowship between the North and the South, and the confidence of the American people in the vigor and stability of their institutions. It would bind us more closely together as a nation, and give to the Government the moral and recuperative power of a Government founded upon the will of a people, and established upon the principle of equal rights to all.

Our increased strength and enhanced prosperity would irrefragably demonstrate the fallacy of the arguments against free institutions, and would give to the Government the enemies of republican government. The admission of loyal members from the States now excluded from representation would be a source of prehension, would turn capital now awaiting an opportunity for investment, into the channels of trade and industry. It would afford a new and powerful stimulus to the States now excluded from representation, and induce emigration, aid in the settlement of fertile regions now uncultivated, and lead to an increase of the population of the Nation, and add so greatly to the wealth of the nation and the commerce of the world. New fields of enterprise would be opened, and the Nation would be enabled to overcome the devastations of war would be repaired, and all traces of our domestic differences effaced from the minds of our countrymen, and the Nation would be united in a Government which constitutes us one people, by restoring the States to the condition which they occupied prior to the war, and thus the Nation, now lost, having rescued our nation from perils of threatened disintegration, we resort to consolidation, and in the end shall have a Government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The war having terminated, and with it all occasion for the exercise of power of doubtful authority, we shall be enabled to exercise our legislative power within the boundaries prescribed by the Constitution, and to return to the ancient landmarks of our forefathers, and to the Constitution which our forefathers gave to the Nation, and which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole Nation, in the form of a Constitutional Convention, or in the opinion of the people, a majority of the States, or a majority of the whole Nation.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Postmaster General presents a most satisfactory condition of the postal service, and submits recommendations which deserve the consideration of Congress. The revenues of the Department for the year ending June 30, 1866, were \$14,886,936, and the expenditures \$15,352,579, showing an excess of the latter of \$465,083. In anticipation of this deficiency, however, a special appropriation was made by Congress in the act approved July 28, 1866. Including the standing appropriation of \$700,000 for free mail matter, as a legitimate portion of the revenues yet remaining unexpended, the actual deficit for the past year is only \$205,086—a sum within \$51,141 of the amount estimated in the annual report of 1864. The decrease of revenue compared with the previous year was one and one-fifth per cent., and the increase of expenditures, owing principally to the increase of the mail service in the South, was twelve per cent. On the 30th of June last there were in operation 6,980 mail routes, with an aggregate

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The District of Columbia, under existing laws, is not entitled to that representation in the National Councils which, from our earliest history, has been uniformly accorded to each Territory established from time to time. It is not entitled to the same peculiar relations to Congress, to whom the Constitution has granted the power of exercising exclusive legislation over the seat of government. Our fellow-citizens residing in the District, whose interests are thus confined to the special guardianship of Congress, exceed in number the population of several of our Territories, and no just reason is perceived why a delegate of their choice should not be admitted to a seat in the House of Representatives. No more adequate and appropriate means of securing them the right to make known their peculiar condition and wants, and of securing the local legislation adapted to them. I therefore recommend the passage of a law authorizing the electors of the District of Colum-

It is a matter of regret that no considerable advance has been made towards an adjustment of the differences between the United States and Great Britain. The Government of the United States upon our national conscience and other trespasses committed during our civil war by British subjects, in violation of international law and treaty obligations. The matter, however, may be believed to have resulted in no small degree from the domestic situation of Great Britain. An entire change of ministry occurred in that country in the month of January, 1868. The attention of the new ministry was necessarily directed to the internal affairs of the country at an early day, and there is some reason to expect that it will now be considered more favorably by the friends of peace. The importance of an early disposition of the question cannot be exaggerated. Whatever might be the wishes of the two Governments, it is manifest that good-faith and friendship between the two powers is essential to the maintenance of peace and unity, in the practice of good faith and neutrality, can be restored between the respective nations.

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